

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's continued thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 3, 6, 12 and 15 have been amended to define applicants' invention. Claims 1-2, 5, 8-11 and 14 have been canceled.

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 10-11, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dulai et al. ("Dulai," U.S. Patent No. 6,615,263) in view of Boyles et al. ("Boyles," U.S. Patent No. 6,738,901).

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 3-4, 6-7, 12-13, and 15-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 3, 6, 12 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form and include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. As noted above, claims 1-2, 5, 8-11 and 14 have been canceled, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the above, applicants believe this application is in condition for allowance, for which action is earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on December 12, 2005:

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